

THE DISSOLUTION OF THE FELLOWSHIP

Roman Republic in 1398, rebuilding Castello Sant' Angelo as a fortress to overawe the city, and, in 1399, crushing the Count of Fondi, Onorato Gaetani, whose fiefs were now absorbed into the Papal States.

As prior-general of the Carthusians of the Roman obedience, Stefano Maconi laboured zealously to bring the Schism to an end. Himself a strong supporter of the claims of Boniface, from whom he had received special faculties and apostolic authority for his work, his most ardent efforts were directed to healing first the breach in his own order. In 1402, from the Styrian charterhouse of St. John, he addressed a long letter to the fathers of the Grande Chartreuse, urging them to be one body and one spirit with their brethren in the Church, offering to lay down his own office for the sake of unity. In eloquent and impassioned words, he tells again the story of the heroic labours of his seraphic mother, Catherine, for the Church, reminding them, and especially Dom Guillaume, of the letter he had written to them at her dictation, when she first heard that they were about to follow the party of the schismatics, appealing to them to bear witness to the truth that she had then announced to them. "Come, then, to our common Mother, my brethren ; fulfil my joy, for I have nothing more at heart than your salvation, to serve the Divine Glory together with you, and to behold the unity of the Christian Republic under its lawful head and ruler, the Roman Pontiff. Although I am ignorant and unskilled in all things, and overladen with grievous errors, yet will I become for you the first example of our humiliation, and be the beginning of our longed-for union. Now by these letters do I cast myself upon the earth, and lie utterly prostrate at your feet. Come and trample upon me at your will. I am prepared to suffer all things, to endure all things. My mind is ready to undergo whatever you will think my confusion, but to me will seem glory, if only I may see the unity of our universal Mother, the Church, and of our order; if only the cloud with which the Lord has covered the daughter of Zion in